**Study on Population Growth**

6421. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any World Organisation has made any study on the population growth in India;

(b) the projected population in our country by 2000 A.D. as per the study;

(c) if so, the suggestions made by them to control the population; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (c). Although no specific study on the population growth in India made by any World Organisation has come to Government's notice, the United Nations Population Fund in its exert programme Review and Strategy Development Report on India has discussed India's population policies and programmes and has made certain recommendations. The recommendations include, integrated nature of the population strategy and the placing of family welfare within a wider development context that includes health, poverty alleviation, improvement of socio-economic conditions of women, education, literacy, employment and income generating activities, Review of incentive schemes; institutional mechanisms for inter-soctoral coordination; a comprehensive communication strategy with emphasis on inter-personal communication; better involvement of organised sector and voluntary organisations; emphasis on Mother and Child Health care programme etc.

(b) The World Bank demographic projections estimate that the population of India will be 1,007,122,000 in the year 2000 A.D.

(d) Population Control forms an integral part of the planning process in the country. The new policies relating to population Control aim at adopting a holistic approach. They aim at giving due importance to socio-economic factors like female literacy, status of women, employment of women, right age of marriage or girls, attitudinal changes in regard to strong son preference etc. besides improving the performance of the Family Welfare Programme. They recognise the importance of improvement of the quality and out-reach of family welfare services reduction of infant child and maternal mortality, eliciting larger participation of the people in population control efforts and the need to have strong administrative support and political will for pursuing the population control programme. A Committee of the National Development Council on Population has been set up to take into account the multisectoral dimension of the population issues and to evolve a National Population policy. In the light of these, an Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with State Governments and Union Territories Administrations for imparting a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme. Population control is a thrust area in the VIII Five Year Plan and foremost priority is being accorded to it.

**Discovery of Artifacts Near Babri Masjid**

6422. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Artifacts found near Babri Masjid"